

614-0.2 U.S. 14th Armored Division 7 pages (duplicate)
Marching History
December 1944
1-30 Dec 44

HISTORY OF OPERATIONS
G-3 SECTION, 14th A.D.
APO 446, USA

V-1265

Enc 6

Dec 45



The opening of the month found the 14th Armored Division split up under several commands. CCA was under the control of the VI Corps and fighting in the Vosges Mountains. The 68th Armored Infantry Battalion was still in the Vicinity of Nice under the 44th Brigade and the 19th Armored Infantry Battalion was enroute from Nice to the division. The 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was attached to the 79th Infantry division and operating in the Strasbourg area.

The 19th Armored Infantry Battalion rejoined the division on December 2.

One medium tank company of the 47th Tank Battalion, which was attached to the 45th Division on Dec. 1st, was attached to the 397th of the 100th Infantry Division on December 3rd. The Commanding General of the XVth Corps also ordered a light tank platoon attached but was informed that all light tanks of the 47th were being processed and not available for use.


On the same date CCA after a hard campaign in the Vosges was returned to division control. The main components of the Combat Command had included the 25th and 48th Tank Battalions, the 62nd Armored Infantry Battalion, 500th Armored Field Artillery Battalion and a company from the 125th Armored Engineers and 84th Armored Medical Battalions.

Major Townsend, executive officer of the 68th Armored Infantry Battalion reported to division headquarters the status of his battalion which was enroute from Nice to join its parent organization.

CCA closed in its assembly area, vic. Hochfelden at 0300, Dec. 4.

Control of the 14th passed from the XVth Corps to the VIth on Dec. 5. The division was informed that the 68th's track vehicles would detrain at Einvaux

(more)



and proceed overland from there. The first train was due to arrive at midnight. The wheeled vehicles were coming overland from Nice and were expected to close in the vicinity of Hochfelden on the 6th and 7th.

On December 6th one rifle company of the 19th, plus one battery of the 500th was alerted to march at 1300 to reinforce the 94th Cav. Squadron, which was attached to the 79th Infantry Division, at Hoerdt. Later in the day a second rifle company plus one platoon of B Co., of the 25th Tank Battalion, went on the same mission. The 47th Tank Battalion which had been attached to the 45th Infantry Div. was returned to the 14th's control and assemble at Ringendorf.

The division had the mission to increase vehicular and radio activity to the south of Bischwiller.

The 68th lost a halftrack on Dec. 8. It went through the friendly out-post line and hit an American mine. The 19th AIB, Co. "C" of the 500th AFA and 2B25 Tank Battalion were released from support of the 94th. The 499th and 500th Armored Field Artillery Battalions were reinforcing the fires of the 171st and 160th Battalions. Other elements of the division were engaged in reconnaissance.

On Dec. 9th the 500th AFA moved to positions to reinforce the fires of the 103rd Infantry Division Artillery. No movement of troops were involved but CCB was alerted to protect the left flank of the 79th Infantry Division between Haguenau and the 103rd Infantry Boundary.

The VIth Corps notified the division that the 94th would be returned to division control on the 11th. The division was put on a six hour alert in the morning. The 499th, 500th and 501st AFA Battalions were reinforcing

(more)

the fires of the 103rd.

On the 11th Task Force England was constituted. It consisted of one platoon of medium tanks, platoon of light tanks and C Troop of the 94th. Mission was reconnaissance by force of the Hageunau-Surbourg route. CCB was notified to be ready to move on one hour's notice at daylight the next day.

On the same date the first Division Field Order was given but never executed. In it the mission of the division was to pass through the 103rd Infantry Division on Vth Corps order and attack in multiple columns on axis Surbourg-Lauterbourg, cut off and destroy forces now facing 79th Infantry Division. Then to execute vigorous reconnaissance toward line of Lauter river in zone.

CCA (62nd, 25th, B94th and attachments) was to pass through 103rd Inf. Div. on div. order and attack in zone in not less than two columns.

CCB (19th AIB, 48th Tanks, C-94th Cav.) was to assemble in vic., Biblisheim and on division order to pass through CCA and seize objective; execute strong Rcn. toward line of Lauter river.

CCR (68th AIB, 47th Tanks and attachments) was to displace forward by bounds on Div. order prepared to reenforce either CC. Prepared to meet counter-attack on either flank.

500th AFA Bn., was to be in direct support of CCA, 499th in direct support of CCB and the 501st in general support.

Task Force England continued reconnaissance on Dec. 12th and reached Surbourg. Had to clear road block just north of Hageunau on the Hagenau-Surburg road which consisted of 300 yards of fallen trees with 2 or more "S" mines. It was undefended.

Field Order #2 was given and it marked the first operation of the elements of the 14th Armored Division under division control.

(more)

The 14th was to debouche from the Hagenau Forest at daylight on the 13th and attack in multiple columns in zone, seize Wissembourg area and crossings of Lauter River and destroy enemy in zone.

CCB with 499th AFA Bn. attached was to move from present assembly area at 130200 to a position in order to debouche from woods at daylight and attack on axis Surbourg-Salmbach. CCA was to follow CCB to Surbourg and then attack on Surbourg-Wissembourg axis. CCR was again to be prepared to assist either Combat Command.

On the 13th Task Force England continued to give reconnaissance reports. The 47th Tank Battalion was attached to the 103rd Infantry Division robbing CCR of its armor strength.

CCB debouched from woods and advanced to east of Hatten. CCA followed CCB to Surbourg and then moved north in CC zone to vic., Soultz. The division CP was moved from Hochfelden to Surbourg.

CCA moved again at daylight of the 14th of December and during day seized and occupied Ingolsheim, Hermerswiller, Munsbach, HOFFEN and ^{RIEDELTS} Reidseltz. Some elements of the Combat Command reached Oberseebach.

CCB after repairing a blown bridge at Hatten advanced in zone and seized and occupied Buhl, Trimbach, Siegen and Oberlauterbach. Some elements of the 19th AIB reached objective-Salmbach.

CCR followed up the advance and moved to vic., Niederbetschdorf.

On the fifteenth CCB completed the occupation of Salmbach. North of Salmbach advancing infantry and reconnaissance elements made slight gains in the face of heavy SA, artillery and mortar fire.

CCA ran into trouble. As the 62nd AIB was advancing toward Wissembourg it was halted by enemy Artillery, SA and mortar fire coming from the vicinity of Oberdorf.

(more)

CCR moved up to Oberseebach and established patrols west of Schleithal.

The honor of getting the first troops of the division into Germany went to the 19th AIB on December 16. CCB crossed patrols to the north bank of the Lauter River at 0930 near the vicinity of Salmbach and Schleithal.

In the meantime CCA attacked north in two columns from the vicinity of Reidseltz and entered Wissembourg at 1015. The 62nd AIB was the first column through and after being delayed by a blown bridge and underpass proceeded to Scimergen, Rechtenbach and Haftelhof. 25th column followed through Wissembourg and reached the outskirts of Schweighofen at darkness.

On the 17th of December the division CP was moved to vic., Leiterswiller. CCB continued to reconnoiter north of the Lauter River and at 1915 withdrew patrols to a line 500 yards north of river for a bombing mission. Also fired artillery missions at pillboxes of Siegfried line discovered by patrols.

CCA dispatched Task Force Shedd at 0745 from Rechtenbach to reconnoiter Ober Otterbach and Berg-Zabern. The Task Force was stopped by a crater in the road and received enemy mortar fire. The 25th attacked east from Schwieghofen at 0745. The entire Combat Command pulled back to line Schweigen-Schweighofen for bombing mission at 1200.

At 1330 CCA again attacked to north and east in two columns with Task Force Shedd reconnoitering on the east flank of the 62nd AIB.

The 62nd AIB was stopped by artillery fire and outposted Rechtenbach, preparatory to being relieved by the 68th AIB which so far had been with CCR.

The 25th Tank Battalion column took Kapsweyer and outposted for the night. Throughout the night both columns probed to locate the Siegfried Line defenses. Task Force Shedd had taken Hofferhof at 1550 and also outposted for the night.

CCR started moving 68th AIB from Oberseebach to vicinity, Rechtenbach to effect relief of 62nd.

(more)



After completing relief of the 62nd the 68th advanced to Ober Otterbach on December 18. The battalion encountered heavy artillery, SA and mortar fire which compelled it to withdraw and reorganize. Elements of two platoons were cut off and withdrew under cover of darkness that night.

The 25th fired on the Siegfried defenses at Steinfeld from Kapsweyer.

CCB on the 18th patrolled Rhen Wald to west and fired artillery missions to north of CG zone.

Task Force Shedd was relieved and elements of the command returned to their parent units. 68th AIB and 25th Tank battalion, of CCA, received artillery and mortar fire in their zone all day.

During the day the 25th Tanks and 48th changed Combat Commands and the movement was completed by 1815.

CCB throughout the day had maintained its patrol duties.

On the 20th CCA and CCB had settled down to firing and patrolling missions. CCA delivered direct and indirect fire from tanks supported by Artillery and observed enemy activity in the Siegfried Line. Observed fire on what was believed to be an enemy OP resulted on less accurate fire in Kapsweyer.

CCB patrolled north of the Lauter River and SE of Steinfeld. Fired indirect fire missions on enemy activity reported by patrols.

Between the hours of 1630 and 1715 all patrols were withdrawn to Lauter River while coordinated firing was conducted by all guns of the Combat Command, other than those on security outpost, on pillboxes and road blocks previously reported by patrols.

On the 21st and 22nd CCA and CCB worked over their zones in the same manner.

Also on the 22nd CCR assumed the name of Task Force Hudelson under the control of Vth Corps and moved to Barrenthal. The Task Force consisted of the 62nd AIB, 94th Cavalry, 117th Cavalry, 500th AFA Battalion, A and B Cos.
(more)

of the 125th Engineers, a TD Company, plus some other artillery.

On the 23rd the 79th Infantry Division began to relieve the 14th Armored and the relief was completed by 1300 of the 24th. CCA opened its CP at Kuls-
enhausen and all elements of the command had closed in their assembly areas
at 1630. CCB started moving to its assembly areas at 1800 and all elements
were closed by 2300. CCB's CP was at Schwabwiler.

Christmas Day found the division(-) in the vicinity of Surbourg with the
division artillery minus the 500th supporting the fires of the 79th Infantry
Division.

On the 25th and 27th of December there was no change in the status of
the division but on the 28th CCA(43th Tank, 68 AIB, 501st AFA, C-94th, C-125th,
A-84, B-136, Dets. of 154 Signal and MPs) moved to vicinity Phalsbourg and
was attached to the XVth Corps.

On the 30th of December the Division Minus moved to the vicinity of
Bouxwiler starting at 1800. The division closed in the new assembly area
at 0400, December 31.

HEADQUARTERS
14TH ARMORED DIVISION ARTILLERY
APO 446

SURPLUS

NON RECORD MATERIAL
WW II RECORDS DIV., NARS.

11 January 1945

HISTORY: 14TH ARMORED DIVISION ARTILLERY

The 14th Armored Division Artillery was activated 15 November 1942, at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, with Colonel C. A. Pyle as Artillery Commander. It consisted of an "Artillery Command Staff" of 8 Officers and 13 Enlisted Men, together with the 499th, 500th, and 501st AFA Bns as Organic Battalions. On 1 April 1943, Colonel Maurice K. Kurtz relieved Colonel Pyle as Artillery Commander. The Artillery was reorganized 28 March 1944 on the basis of T/O & E 6-160, creating a Division Artillery Headquarters and Headquarters Battery.

During the first week of November 1943, the Division started closing in an assembly area in the vicinity of Lebanon, Tennessee, where the following two months were spent maneuvering under 2d Army. At the conclusion of these maneuvers, moved to Camp Campbell, Kentucky, closing on 18 January 1944. The Division was alerted to move to Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania in early July 1944, however received further orders canceling these a couple weeks later. Thursday 21 September 1944 found a Division Advance Party enroute to the Staging Area, Camp Slocum, New York. The Artillery Headquarters was represented by the Artillery Executive and one Clerk. Plans were changed again on arrival at the Staging Area, and 10 Officers, including Lt. Col. Carl C. Neely, Executive of Division Artillery, were flown to Marseilles France to make arrangements for Division's reception.

The Division Artillery left Camp Campbell, Kentucky 2 October 1944, arriving at Camp Shanks, New York, 4 October 1944. They were processed and boarded on the S.S. SEA ROBIN, and on 14 October 1944, sailed for Marseilles, arriving in the harbor on the 28th of October, but due to the high winds, were unable to dock until mid-day of the 29th. The unit was unloaded and marched to the DBS Staging Area about 8 miles from the docks, where it remained until 20th of November trying to find its organizational equipment. The Staff Officers of the Unit at this time were:

Division Artillery Commander	Col. Maurice K. Kurtz
Division Artillery Executive	Lt. Col. Carl C. Neely
S-1 & S-4	Capt. Joe R. Barron
S-2	Maj. Christian A. Herter
S-3	Capt. William I. Smoot
Air Officer	Capt. Richard T. Neumann
Orientation Officer	Capt. Raymond E. Sugg
Asst. S-2	1st Lt. Robert J. Inness
S.S. Officer	1st Lt. Robert L. Harlem
C.O. Headquarters Battery	1st Lt. Aaron Baxter
C.O. 499th AFA Bn	Lt. Col. Robert L. Vance
C.O. 500th AFA Bn	Lt. Col. Dale V. Swanson
C.O. 501st AFA Bn	Lt. Col. Joseph H. Harrison

Monday, 20 November 1944, 0740, found Headquarters and Headquarters Battery crossing the IP at Aix, 15 Km NW of Marseilles, heading North by way of Avignon, to Valence, where we spent the night in a Cavalry stable. The following day, the column moved on to Lyon, skirting the city, and arriving at Dijon after dark, where they spent the night in a park ankle deep with mud. Some of the men slept in vehicles, others on the wet ground. Leaving Dijon, at 0600, the unit headed for Epinoy, crossing the river at that city, thus coming under control of the Seventh Army, then continuing West to Portieux la Venreie, where they were billeted in a glass factory. It was on this day, Wednesday, 22 November, that the 500th AFA Bn, adjusted its first artillery fire on the Germans, while attached to CCA.

* * * * *

EXTRACTS FROM SPECIAL ORDERS, HEADQUARTERS 14TH ARMORED DIVISION

SO #257, 26 November 1944:

"3. CAPT RAYMOND E SUGG, O1 171 786, FA, is reld fr asgmt to Hq, 14th Armd Div Arty and asgd to Hq, 14th Armd Div, for dy as Asst G-3, I & E Off."

SO #260, 29 November 1944:

"8. Following named Offs, orgns indicated, are placed on SD with Hq, 14th Armd Div, for duty with G-3.

CAPT WILLIAM I SMOOT O1 165 340 FA Hq 14th Armd Div Arty."

SO #261, 30 November 1944:

"2 CAPT RAYMOND E SUGG, O1 171 786, FA, is reld fr asgmt to Hq, 14th Armd Div, dy as Asst G-3, I & E Off, and asgd to Hq, 14th Armd Div Arty."

* * * * *

As of 26 November 1944, Capt. Joe R. Barron was assigned as acting S-3, and Capt. Raymond E. Sugg was assigned as acting S-1 and S-4, Div Arty Hq.

Friday, 1 December, this Headquarters left Portieux la Venreie, reaching IP Moreville, at 0812, and moving North via Ramblervillers, Baccarat, across the Vosges Mountains to Wilwisheim, closing in an assembly area at Wilwisheim at 1515.

This Headquarters received orders to attach 499th and 501st AFA Bn to 45th Inf. Div. Arty. The Division Artillery Commander was ordered to report to the 45th Division Artillery CP with his Bn CO's, 0800, 2 December, prepared to go on reconnaissance for Bn and Btry positions. As directed, Colonel Kurtz, accompanied by Lt. Inness, reported to CO 45th Inf Div Arty where he received instructions for the employment of the 499th and 501st. The 499th moved into position near Uhrwiller, 8831, 501st went into position at Nefferen, 8730. The Headquarters Battery was moved to Schillersdorf, 8430, where they first experienced artillery firing around and over them. This was a shake-down period with very little work for this Headquarters, as we were simply following the operations which were being conducted by the 45th Division Artillery. However, it was a very valuable period for the Staff to use to get oriented.

3 December 1944

45th Division Artillery ordered 501st to position generally 9131. Primary mission reinforcing fires of 158th FA Bn, and secondary mission of reinforcing fires of 158th FA. 499th reported

1 FC tank knocked out - no personnel casualties.

4 December 1944 - Div Arty CP Schillersdorf, Q8340.

499th AFA Bn:

CP Mulhausen, Q8631. Mission of reinforcing fires of 158th FA Bn. Fires: Observed 13, unobserved 10.

500th AFA Bn:

Attached to CCA.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Ingwiller, Q9132. Mission reinforcing fires 171st and 160th FA Bns. Fires: Observed 6, unobserved 6. The Bn closed in its new position near Ingwiller, Q9132, at 1450.

5 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission general support 45th Div Arty. Fires: Observed 2, unobserved 7.

500th AFA Bn:

Not employed - returning from a mission S. of Barr, where they had been attached to CCA. Assembled at Geisweiler, 8321.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 9, unobserved 8.

6 December 1944 - Div Arty CP Bitchhofen, Q9128.

499th AFA Bn:

CP Bitchhofen, 9128. Mission reinforcing fires of 171st FA. Fires: Observed 3.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission reinforcing fires of 160th FA. Fires: Observed 13, unobserved 4.

Col. Kurtz called meeting of Staff, Neely, Herter, Barron, Sugg, Neuman, Brewster, Friedman, Josten, to discuss plans of future operations, then left with Lt. Baxter on reconnaissance for new CP, ordering Lt. Col. Neely to move the Headquarters to Bitchhofen.

7 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 6, unobserved 6.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Ingwiller, Q9131. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 8, unobserved 7.

Two ME 109's buzzed cubllanding field and were driven off by AA fire.

Message from Ramshackle: (VI Corps Arty) Request 1 Officer from Division Artillery report at 0930 7 December to Seventh Army Demonstration of new type fuze. Capt. Barron detailed to go.

8 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission reinforcing fires 103rd Inf Div Arty.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission same as Div Arty. Fires: Observed 13, unobserved 3.

500th AFA Bn:

CP 9231. Mission reinforcing fires 928th FA Bn. Fires: None.

501st AFA Bn:

CP 9335. Mission same as Div Arty. Fires: Observed 15, unobserved 3.

9 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 5, unobserved 3.

500th AFA Bn:

CP Mientesheim, Q9331. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 8.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Ingwiller, Q912315. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 9.

Maj. Montgomery, Capt. Gentry, Staff Officers CCA, visited CP to discuss Artillery support for proposed attack by CCA.

10 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 6, unobserved 17.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 1, unobserved 18.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 2, unobserved 21.

The enemy still holds factory at Mertzwiller, but have been cleared from the remainder of the town. Graibach strongly fortified, reported heavily mined and booby trapped, still holds out against our troops. The 499th and 500th were strafed by 3 ME 109's at 1300. No damage. 1 plane shot down by AA.

11 December 1944 - Div Arty CP Mertzwiller, Q962299. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP 968302. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 1, unobserved 2.

500th AFA Bn:

CP 966322. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 7, unobserved 5.

501st AFA Bn:

CP 963307. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 3.

Three or four vehicles and about 20 personnel in vicinity of schoolhouse 01423152, fired on by our FA. Air OP reports at least 10 casualties. Road blocks reported West of Gunstatt. MG fire, 50 caliber, received from woods, 4236.

12 December 1944 - Div Arty CP Eschbach, Q0731. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:


CP Hinterfeld, 1514. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 3.

500th AFA Bn:

CP 2338. Mission no change. Fires: Unobserved 6.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Hageney, Q0424. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 3.



499th AFA Bn:

500th AFA Bn:

501st AFA En:

499th AFA Bn:

17.

500th AFA Bn:

501st AFA Bn:

499th AFA Bn:

500th AFA Bn:

11.

501st AFA Bn:

unobserved 13.

Enemy Artillery was very active on CCA's front, despite heavy counterbattery. The RJ North of Riedseltz and the town itself were interdicted by the enemy with 75mm and 105mm fire. The 25th Tk Bn received 105mm fire on head of its column at 172455. Inf. was harrassed by enemy Artillery fire throughout the day. Six enemy tanks were observed in the vicinity of RJ 172461, one believed to have been knocked out by bazooka. Enemy Inf. dug in on hill 243 offered stiff resistance throughout the day. AT guns at 179443, 17234592, 171469, and 167454, were fired on with good effect by our Artillery. Strongly organized CP's on hill 243, 17894663, 18094649, 17464570, 15144630, were fired on by our FA. Our units were in contact with 481st Inf Regt, 21st Rcn Bn, and 2d Bn 192 DG Regt (21 Panzer Div).

499th AFA Bn:

500th AFA Bn:

501st AFA Bn:

24.

No Artillery reported falling on our troops except between 1700 and 1900. when a few rounds of 105mm interspersed with heavier caliber fell on the road 189510. Two enemy light tanks and 1 AT gun reported at 150900, also tanks and AT guns observed by our Inf. at 18684890, plus 3 88mm guns at 16754755.

17 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP 24544195. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 5, unobserved 4.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 2, unobserved 26.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 5, unobserved 28.

Enemy artillery fire showed marked increase during the period coming from hill NW and from casements to N and NE of CCA. Our general location shelled at 0658 by 75mm fire, again at 0707. No damage. Both columns CCA, were under considerable enemy artillery and mortar fire during the day. At 171245, two SP guns and 1 pillbox at 18275106 were knocked out by our artillery fire. Our forces pulled back from Kapsweiler to permit the Air Force to bomb and soften up the town. Results were not good.

The only report of enemy armor during the day was two tanks in Steinfeld and two on the NW edge of the town. Small arms fire was scattered during the period, but heavy mortar fire and MG fire was encountered from fortified positions in the Siegfried Line by our troops.

18 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 7, unobserved 3.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 11, unobserved 11.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 8, unobserved 5.

Enemy artillery fire increased. Intense fire fell on the 68th AIB column between 0900 and 1000, - estimated to be 105mm. During the afternoon, mortar and artillery fire as large as 150mm continued to fall, and at 1710, time fire was reported falling on our troops in West column.

The 25th Tk Bn received spasmodic 75mm and 88mm fire during the morning, increasing in intensity during the afternoon. Every movement of our troops drew FA fire, indicating that the enemy had observation on us from a church steeple in Steinfeld, 220500. 501st ACP scored 4 direct hits on the steeple setting it on fire at 1630. 8 rds of enemy 150mm were received in Kapsweyer, 299498, from the North. Only one tank was observed on the front just behind the dragon's teeth at the W entrance to Steinfeld. Enemy Inf. was active particularly in the vicinity of the West column. Local counterattacks repulsed by artillery fire just S of Ober Otterbach at 1230. Two plat of 68 AIB were reported encircled N of river at dark. Continued semi-automatic and MG fire against all our activities

in vicinity of Kapsweyer. The pillboxes of the Siegfried Line in this sector were being used to advantage by enemy. Sniper fire in town on hill West of Ober Otterbach during the morning. Mortar shells of 150 cal. fell on our troops in both sectors. No AT fire was drawn from casements even though some of our tanks were exposed at times.

Received message from VI Corps authorizing the use of the new type fuze T80 E6. 1000 rds available initially to be used during the next five days. Also designated certain hours only, in which sub planes may be in the air.

SO 263, Headquarters Seventh Army, 16 December 1944, was received, promoting following Officers:

From Captain to Major:

Joe R. Barron

William I. Smoot

From 1st Lieutenant to Captain:

Aaron Baxter

19 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission no change.
499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 1, unobserved 10.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 8, unobserved 9.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 4, unobserved 19.

Enemy 75mm and 88mm kept all front line troops pinned down. Intense mortar fire fell on CCA between 1000 and 1200. Enemy Artillery fire on the E column slackened in the afternoon. Corps TOT on 21385538 at 1015. Shell reports indicate some 105mm and 150mm shelling but mostly mortar fire.

Due to lack of observation and the numerous artillery casements along this part of the Siegfried Line, it is difficult to effectively silence all enemy artillery, particularly with our 105mm Hows. Enemy Inf was again aggressive during the period around 1200, counterattacking against the West column with heavy MG and mortar fire from pillboxes.

Relief of the 25th Tk Bn by the 48th Tk Bn was effectively screened by artillery smoke. The church steeple at Steinfeld, although pounded by artillery and air, still remained as an enemy OP. The weather was too foggy to afford adequate observation for adjusting heavy artillery effectively on the casements.

20 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission no change.
499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Unobserved 25.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 9, unobserved 11.

501st AFA Bn:

CP R1884047067. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 3, unobserved 10.

Enemy artillery continued to fall during the morning, as heavy 120mm and 75mm mortar fire fell on our front lines. The church steeple at Steinfeld was knocked down by an M12 155mm gun borrowed from Corps by this Headquarters. Several rds of 150mm fell in Wissembourg coming from an azimuth of approximately 6000. The 501st AFA adjusted an 8" howitzer on a pillbox with T105 fuze obtaining 3 targets hit and flushing the enemy. An immediate concentration of time fire from 105mm netted 12 casualties. Corps estimate - 4,500 troops in the Siegfried Line to our immediate front.

21 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 8, unobserved 6.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 5, unobserved 8.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 15, unobserved 9.

Very light enemy harrassing fires were reported throughout the day ranging from heavy mortar fire up to 88mm and 105mm. During mid afternoon the W column of OCA reported receiving fire from large and medium caliber artillery and mortar. High velocity weapons were reported at 17245347 and were fired upon by the 500th, with very good effect. Hits were obtained on a pillbox at 178537, but with very little effect. Several hits were observed by Air CP on enemy gun in house at 227519. 40 rds of mixed artillery fire landed in Schweighofen about 1300. The conspicuous absence of Inf. was noted during the day. S/A and MG fire coming from pillboxes and other fortified positions. Considerable mortar fire was received from 220500 and 21965042.

22 December 1944 - Div Arty CP Schonenburg, R1239. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 7, unobserved 28.

500th AFA Bn:

CP unknown. Mission, attached to CCR.

501st AFA Bn:

CP R1653644604. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 12, unobserved 13.

Artillery and mortar fire was light. Several large concentrations of 30 or 40 rds medium caliber. Each were reported NE Rechtenbach.

The 68th CP received 5 or 6 more rds of 150mm at 2245. Accurate mortar fire still harrassed our troops occasionally. Kapsweyer was shelled with about 30 rds of high velocity shell during the morning. Observers reported 15 additional rds of light enemy artillery falling at 2305. Interdiction fire by single rds, were encountered in Wissembourg, and Riedseltz. Plots from shell reports pointed to Schaidt and the area just E of Bergzabern, 191558 and Pleisweiler, 195572, as the probable location of most activity. Only 1 report of CB was received. Enemy in the open was fired on at 21703043. The enemy mortar fire was still active, evidently having good observation and coverage.

23 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP 20703784. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 2, unobserved 24.

500th AFA Bn:

CP 830421, attached to CCR.

501st AFA Bn:

CP 1653644604. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 7, unobserved 13.

Enemy artillery was very light on entire front today. The principal targets for artillery were rear elements. Riedseltz, 153440, received intermittent harrassing fires, estimated to be 88mm or larger in the earlier part of the afternoon. Shell fragments found in CCA's area estimated to be 170mm. Scattered enemy mortar fire during the day from positions at 17005380, fired on by our artillery.

24 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission none.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission reinforce fires of 79th Div Arty. Fires: Observed 6, unobserved 10.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission attached to T.F. Huddelson. Fires: Observed 8, unobserved 5.

501st AFA Bn:

CP 1497241490. Mission reinforce fires of 79th Div Arty. Fires: Observed 2.

There was a noticeable decrease of enemy artillery fire during this period. Only shell reports received from 3rd Bn 313th Inf reported 4 rds of light artillery falling at 220463, as of 1530. An enemy MG, together with personnel, were fired on at 244487. AOP reported 2 enemy tanks at 180523 as of 1400. Div Arty Air Strip reports 4 ME 109's strafed their field at 1120. No damage to our planes, 1 AA halftrack receiving 6 hits. No casualties.

25 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission No change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 8, unobserved 7.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 13, unobserved 1.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 2.

Enemy artillery fire was very light during the day. Only 1 rd of 88mm fired reported, and that on 499th area.

26 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission, general support

79th Inf Div Arty.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission, under Div Arty control, reinforcing fires of 310th FA Bn. Fires: Observed 4, unobserved 3.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 3, unobserved 2.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission, under Div Arty control reinforcing fires of 904th FA Bn. Fires: Observed 4.

No enemy activity reported, entire sector quiet.

* * * * *

Extract, SO 278, Headquarters 14th Armd Div, 26 December 1944.

1. MAJ WILLIAM I SMOOT, O1 165 340, FA, is reld fr asgmt to Hq, 14th Armd Div Arty and SD with Hq, 14th Armd Div, dy with G-3, and asgd to 501st Armd FA Bn.

2. CAPT STANLEY H GAYLORD, O 367 166, FA, is reld fr asgmt to 501st Armd FA Bn, and asgd to Hq, 14th Armd Div Arty, and placed on SD with Hq, 14th Armd Div, dy with G-3.

3. CAPT RAYMOND E SUGG, O1 171 786, FA, is reld fr asgmt to Hq, 14th Armd Div Arty, and asgd to 500th Armd FA Bn, and placed on SD with Hq, 14th Armd Div Arty.

* * * * *

Major Joe R. Barron assigned S-3, Captain Stanley H. Gaylord assigned S-1, S-4, SD with Div G-3 section, Captain Raymond E. Sugg SD with Div Arty Hq.

27 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 9, unobserved 19.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 3, unobserved 2.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 2.

No enemy artillery fire was reported during this period. Enemy Inf was fired on at 254513, pillbox at 25465004, vehicles at 25525090, also a building at 28065108.

A visit by General Wahl, Artillery Commander 79th Div., for the purpose of working out plans of movement in case the 79th is forced to withdraw from this area. This plan was coordinated with the Executive Officer, Lt. Col. Neely.

28 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

Enroute to reinforce fires of 45th Div Arty, vicinity Q005438. Fires: Observed 5, unobserved 2.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 7, unobserved 12.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 2.

One enemy SP gun was fired on at 262437. Enemy Inf was confined to patrolling on whole front. Vehicles were fired on at 175530 with good effect, also pillbox at 24925170, and enemy barracks at 25005219.

29 December 1944 - Div Arty CP Kutzenhausen le Haut, R0737. Mission Reinforcing fires of the 45th Division Artillery.

499th AFA Bn:

CP Q999410, Mission reinforcing fires of 45th Division Arty. Fires: Observed 7, unobserved 2.

500th AFA Bn:

CP Q840422. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 6, Unobserved 17.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Weyer, Q5728. Mission, attached to CCA operating in XV Corps Area. Not committed.

30 December 1944 - Div Arty CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 4.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 3, unobserved 15.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: None.

31 December 1944 - Div Arty CP Schillersdorf, Q845302. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 1, unobserved 2.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 7, unobserved 12.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: None.



HEADQUARTERS 14TH ARMORED DIVISION
Office of the A.C. of S., G-4
APO 446 U.S. ARMY

jeb

12. January 1945

G-4 HISTORY FOR DECEMBER 1944

The first half of December 1944 was spent in re-supplying units and reconstituting loads in preparation for attack on the Siegfried line through the Wissembourg Gap.

All battle losses sustained by CC "A" in the battle through the Vosges were replaced, and by the 14th, when CC "B" jumped off, the entire division was fully equipped.

Tank dozer blades, deemed essential to the operation, were made available by Seventh Army through VI Corps. Three were allocated the division with promise of additional support if needed.

Delineation of responsibility between G-1 and G-4 in movement of Rear Echelon and clearing of billets was definitely set. G-1 is responsible for reconnaissance and arranging for movement of Rear Echelon while Trains Headquarters will issue the order for movement. G-4, after clearing billets with G-1, will recommend the location of service elements (Unit Commanders being responsible for reconnaissance of the new locations) and arranging for movement. The Trains Commander will be responsible for the movement but may delegate this authority to the Unit Commander when only one company is moving.

When the division is making an administrative move, G-1 will coordinate all reconnaissance for, and assignment to, areas prior to movement. All service elements will be moved under the Trains Commander.

Traffic Control was taken away from G-4 and G-3 and centered in Movement Coordination and Control Section under the supervision of the CWS Section.

When the division moved from the Hochfelden area through the Haguenau Forest to the jump off point, Unit Trains reverted to division control, each Combat Commander designated a Combat Command Trains Commander to coordinate Combat Command Trains with the Division Trains Commander. This operation resulted in the adoption of the following plan for Trains as recommended by the Trains Commander:

Trains would never revert to division control except when the operation made it absolutely imperative. Artillery Unit Trains never revert unless so specified in the Administrative Order because these Trains left were so small and created a problem for the unit and the Trains Commander.



It was discovered early in the operation that Armored Infantry was being used as Infantry in an Infantry Division which necessitated additional requirements. Browning Automatic Rifles were allowed because the light machine guns did not give the proper support. 1/4-Ton Trailers were given each battalion to effect re-supply. Marmite Cans requested so hot meals could be taken forward to elements on the line.

During the operation, Flame Throwers were requested for use against the pill boxes in the Siegfried line. Eight were borrowed from the 79th Infantry Division and thirteen from the 3rd Infantry Division.

Army Supply Dumps moved in close support of the operation shortly after the attack started.

When the division was taken out of the line a Task Force was made up under VI Corps control and CC "A" went through the Vosges to support XV Corps. When the division is split up like this it makes the supply of all elements very difficult; in many instances the supply of Class I, III and V cause runs of up to 50 miles and makes close supply support impossible. XV Corps was very cooperative and granted use of their supporting Army Class III and V installations.

The following is a list of losses of major items sustained in December 1944:

	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Replaced</u>
Ordnance Equipment:		
Car, armd, M8	7	7
Halftracks	13	13
Carriage, mtr, 75mm How, M8	1	1
Tank, light, w/arm	5	5
Tank, medium	22	22
Carriage, mtr, 105mm How, M7	1	1
Truck, 1/4-Ton 4x4	21	21
Truck, 3/4-Ton, Wpn Carr	1	0
Truck, 2 1/2-Ton, 6x6, Cargo	1	1
Air Corps Equipment:		
Airplane, Liaison	1	1
Signal Equipment:		
Radio, SCR-300	7	
Radio, SCR-506	2	
Radio, SCR-508	5	
Radio, SCR-510	3	
Radio, SCR-528	5	
Telephone, KE-8	14	
Reel Equipment, CE-11	1	



~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS 11TH ARMORED DIVISION
A. P. O. 446 U.S. ARMY



SUMMARY OF CASUALTIES AND REINFORCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 1944.

BATTLE CASUALTIES

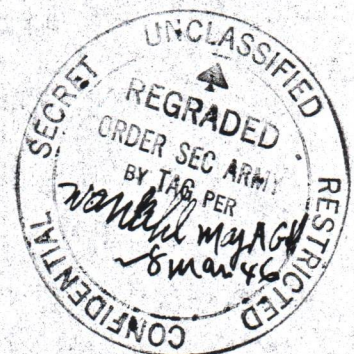
	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Killed in Action	7	55	62
Wounded in Action	10	265	275
Injured in Action	2	17	19
Missing in Action	0	55	55
TOTAL BC	19	292	411

NON-BATTLE CASUALTIES

Deaths	0	8	8
Disease	10	274	284
Injuries	0	48	48
TOTAL NBC	10	330	340
Total BC and NBC	29	622	751
Reinforcements Received	18	334	352

SURPLUS

NON RECORD MATERIAL
WW II RECORDS DIV., NARS.



~~SECRET~~


~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS 11TH ARMORED DIVISION
A. P. O. 446 U.S. ARMY

FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944.

OFFICER PROMOTIONS

	<u>TOTAL</u>
To the Grade of Lieutenant Colonel	6
To the Grade of Major	8
To the Grade of Captain	22
To the Grade of First Lieutenant	10
	<u>46</u>



TOTAL 46

BATTLE FIELD PROMOTIONS

To the Grade of First Lieutenant 3

BATTLE FIELD APPOINTMENTS

To the Grade of Second Lieutenant 13


~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS 11TH ARMORED DIVISION
A. P. O. 446 U.S. ARMY

AWARDS FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944.

	<u>Silver Star</u>		<u>Bronze Star Medal</u>	
	<u>Officers</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>EM</u>
25th Tank Bn.		1	5	5
48th Tank Bn.				1
19th AIB	1	1		
62nd AIB			1	8
68th AIB		2	2	7
499th Armd FA Bn.				1
125th Armd Engr Bn.			1	2
136th Ord Maint Bn.				4
TOTAL	1	4	9	28
TOTAL OFFICERS & EM		5		37
TOTAL AWARDS				42



~~SECRET~~